

Cannabis in Berkeley

Elizabeth Greene, AICP

Senior Planner

City of Berkeley

Bay Area Planning Directors Association

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Berkeley's Experience

- Background
- Dispensary selection process
- Manufacturing
- Unique regulations



Cannabis Regulations in Berkeley

- 1979 – Decriminalized
- 2008 and 2010 ballot measures – create Medical Cannabis Commission
- 2014 – new ordinance creates a 4th dispensary and new dispensary regulations
- 2016 – 3 additional dispensaries selected
- 2017 – Regulations for cultivation and delivery-only developed: work starts on adult use regulations

Cannabis in Berkeley

- 6 dispensaries approved (3 active)
- 4 manufacturing businesses
- 2 testing labs
- 10-15 residential collectives

Selection Process

(Resolution 66,711-N.S.)

- Complex process for staff and applicants
- Unnecessary requirements (competency test)
- Linked applicant to site
- Too long



Manufacturing/R&D/Testing

- Edibles, concentrates, lotions
- Treated like any other manufacturing/R&D/testing use
- Pays higher tax
- Only on a wholesale basis



Unique Regulations

- Testing
- Medical cannabis for low-income patients
- Energy offsets for cultivation



Lessons Learned

1. Be careful what you ask for
2. Don't be afraid of new ideas
3. Consider your jurisdiction's unique needs

